

FACSIMILE

TO: Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability
OE-20
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20585

FROM: Frances M. Cooley
324 Oak Spring Road
Marianna, PA 15345

RE: Attention: Docket No. 2007-OE-01

No. of pages including this one - 5

Frances M. Cooley
324 Oak Spring Road
Marianna, PA 15345

November 5, 2007

Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability
OE-20
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear sir or madam;

This letter is to serve as a formal request for a rehearing of the NIETC designation of the Mid-Atlantic Area National Corridor, Docket No. 2007-OE-01. I have attached my original protest but wish to add some further comments.

As a board member of the Environmental Conservation Council of Pennsylvania, I am very aware of the effect this designation would have on my state as well as the other designated states. Unfortunately, many citizens are completely unaware that this process is taking place and are unable to express their objections. I have encountered no one who, when presented with the facts of this process and designation, is in favor of it.

This NIETC designation will place corporate goals above citizens' rights and states' rights. No corporation's business plan should be given precedence over any person's private property when the goal is profits. Public utilities are simply that, PUBLIC utilities. When a corporation has a captive consumer base, it is unconscionable that their potential profits are the driving force behind their decisions.

The NIETC designation will forever destroy farmland, historic sites, beautiful scenery, wildlife habitat and people's homes and lives. Do not allow private corporations to run roughshod over this nation.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frances M. Cooley".

Frances M. Cooley

BEFORE THE
U.S.DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

In re: National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors and Congestion Study	: : : : :	Attn: Docket No. 2007-OE-01 Draft Mid-Atlantic Area National Corridor
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PUBLIC COMMENT OF:

FRANCES M. COOLEY

Washington County, Pennsylvania Resident

As a resident of Washington County, Pennsylvania, I appreciate the opportunity provided to submit comments regarding the National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor (NIETC) for the draft Mid-Atlantic Area National Corridor.

Allegheny Power and their affiliates are trying to limit or even eliminate Pennsylvania's Public Utility Commission reviews by obtaining NIETC designation. This totally abrogates states' rights. It was not the intent of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to amend the Constitution and negate states' rights but that is exactly what NIETC designation does. By possibly countermanding a PUC decision, the NIETC designation renders the commission useless. The corridor decision affects not only Allegheny Power's current proposed project but any utility's project in the future. This designation would provide carte blanche to all utility projects. It would give any corporation federal eminent domain capabilities which has never occurred in our nation prior to this.

The Mid-Atlantic Area National Corridor covers a massive area that is way beyond the area that you have labeled 'congested'. The term 'corridor' implies a relatively narrow pathway or hallway, not three entire states and the majority of four others. To call this huge area a corridor is to render that term meaningless except to the utility companies who would then have virtually unlimited access to install power lines at their sole discretion. At the very least, and then only after extensive study, the corridors should only contain congested areas.

The area that I live in is not labeled congested but Allegheny Power's proposed 500kV line would go through this area. We would be required to pay for this line although it does not benefit us at all and is not needed by our area.

We have been told that this designation will help the reliability of our power systems but how can that be when large power lines would extend for miles and miles through unprotected, rural countryside? Sending electricity through massive lines for

hundreds of miles to service millions of people actually makes the system more unreliable. In this age of terrorists and Homeland Security, the system would be wide open to mischief from anyone with a shotgun or a homemade bomb not to mention more sophisticated explosives.

The majority of the electricity that would be transmitted to the 'congested' areas comes from coal fired generating plants in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio. Many of these plants, including several owned by Allegheny Power, have been designated as some of the dirtiest in the nation. Southwestern Pennsylvania's air quality has also been labeled similarly. The NIETC designation will increase the amount of coal burned in these dirty plants and cause increased health problems for the people in this area. Because of the mercury emitted, we also have limits on the amount of fish we can eat that are caught in local waters. Mercury is very toxic but these plants get away with high emissions through trading credits with cleaner plants. We are not even part of the congested area but we will suffer physically for it. There is nothing wrong with burning coal but update these plants with the appropriate technology and burn the coal cleanly. It can be done albeit at a price. Considering the millions of dollars AP would make from selling electricity to the east coast, they can certainly afford to upgrade these plants as quickly as possible.

This corridor designation will affect farmland, historic sites, wildlife habitat, and scenic views. Secretary Bodman stated that parochial issues can't dictate federal energy policy. Well, preserving farmland in order to feed our nation is not a parochial issue. Agriculture is the #1 industry in Pennsylvania. We should be growing more food here at home instead of importing tainted food and ingredients from China. Pennsylvania is known for its large numbers of hunters and fishermen. Tourists come from many other states to hunt and fish here. Corridors will have a large impact on wildlife and their habitats. Pennsylvania is also known for many historic sites and vast numbers of scenic areas. Again, these corridors would have an irreversible impact on these areas. All of this is part of our nation's heritage and should never be lightly squandered for selfish interests whether individual or corporate.

Also, for your consideration, the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) requires an environmental impact statement be completed. This has not been done. No alternative solutions for the constraints and congestion other than corridor designation and high-voltage transmission lines has been considered. Representatives of the affected states have not been consulted as required by Section 216. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Commission has not been consulted as required by Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) has not been consulted as required by Sections 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA). It seems to me that you are only following the rules that you choose to follow.

Last but not least, when a corporation who stands to earn millions and millions of dollars as a result of this designation (not to mention the millions to be gained by the CEO, etc.) tells me that this is 'necessary', I am very, very skeptical. Follow the money.

Who stands to gain? Not the landowners. Not the consumers. Not the farmers. Not the hunters and fishermen. Not the people who already have lung and heart problems. Not the wildlife.

Frankly, to think that our federal government is willingly assisting a corporation to mess with the Constitution, steal people's property, rape the land, pollute our air and water, AND make us pay for it, is appalling. The Department of Energy needs to get in touch with the PEOPLE of the United States and not the corporations and come up with a good public energy policy that includes renewable energy sources, conservation, and the current fossil fuels. The majority of people want you to be leaders in this policy not just spouting that drivel about 'market influences' and 'letting the market determine prices'. Corporate greed has no place in policy decisions.

As a resident of Washington County, Pennsylvania, I respectfully request the U.S. Department of Energy to consider my comments in PROTEST, and DENY the proposed draft Mid-Atlantic Area National Corridor designation.

Respectfully submitted,
Washington County Resident,
Frances M. Cooley
324 Oak Spring Road
Marianna, Pa 15345

June 5, 2007